

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Jerome D. Brown et al.

Serial No.: 10/672,166

Filed: September 26, 2003

Docket No.: 10387US01 (I201.180.101)

Title: TAPE REEL ASSEMBLY WITH RADIALY SYMMETRIC DEFORMING TAPE WINDING SURFACE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8-9 and 15.

Please amend claims 1, 10-12, and 16-18 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tape reel assembly for a data storage tape cartridge, the cartridge configured to couple to a tape drive, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub comprising an upper flange and a lower flange, the upper and lower flanges extending in a radial fashion from opposing sides of the hub, respectively, the hub including:

a cylindrical core defining a drive side and a top side;

an annular arm co-axially disposed exterior to and separated from the cylindrical core, the annular arm defining opposing end surfaces and a tape winding surface bisected by a center line into a top half opposite the drive side and a bottom half adjacent the drive side; and

a web extending from the top side of the core and connecting to the top half of the annular arm, and further wherein the web is not contiguous with the end surfaces of the annular arm;

wherein the upper and lower flanges exhibit symmetrical deformation upon application of a radial load to the tape winding surface.

2. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the hub is configured such that upon loading, the tape winding surface exhibits approximately symmetrical radial deformation.

3. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 2, wherein the hub is configured to exhibit a variation in radial deformation between the top and bottom halves of not more than 0.0002 inch per 100 psi of applied radial load.

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4. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 3, wherein the hub is configured to exhibit a variation in radial deformation between the top and bottom halves of not more than 0.0001 inch per 100 psi of applied radial load.

5. (Previously Presented) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the web defines a web center, the web center connecting to the annular arm at a point from the center line not greater than one-half an axial length of the top half.

6. (Previously Presented) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the web defines a web center, the web center connecting to the annular arm at a point from the center line not greater than one-fourth an axial length of the top half.

7. (Previously Presented) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the web defines a web center, the web center connecting to the annular arm at a point approximately 0.05 inch from the center line.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The tape reel assembly of claim 8¹, wherein at least one of the upper flange and the lower flange is formed as part of the annular arm.

11. (Currently Amended) The tape reel assembly of claim 8¹, wherein at least one of the upper flange and the lower flange is laser welded to the arm.

12. (Currently Amended) A data storage tape cartridge comprising:
a housing defining an enclosed region;

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at least one tape reel assembly rotatably disposed within the enclosed region and including a hub comprising an upper flange and a lower flange, the upper and lower flanges extending in a radial fashion from opposing sides of the hub, respectively, and at least one of the upper flange and the lower flange is laser welded to the hub, the hub having:

a cylindrical core defining a drive side and a top side;

an annular arm co-axially disposed exterior to and separated from the cylindrical core, the annular arm defining a tape winding surface terminating at opposing end surfaces of the annular arm and bisected by a center line into a top half opposite the drive side and a bottom half adjacent the drive side;

a web extending from the top side of the core and connecting to the top half of the annular arm, wherein the web is not contiguous with either of the opposing end surfaces; and

storage tape configured to wind about the tape winding surface.

13. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 12, wherein the hub is configured such that upon loading, the tape winding surface exhibits approximately symmetrical radial deformation.

14. (Previously Presented) The data storage tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the web defines a web center, the web center connecting to the annular arm at a point from the center line not greater than one-fourth an axial length of the top half.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The data storage tape cartridge of claim ~~15~~12, wherein the upper and lower flanges exhibit symmetrical deformation.

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17. (Currently Amended) The data storage tape cartridge of claim ~~15~~12, wherein at least one of the upper flange and the lower flange is formed as part of the annular arm.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of winding data storage tape onto a tape reel assembly comprising:

providing a data storage tape cartridge having a housing enclosing the tape reel assembly, wherein the tape reel assembly includes a hub comprising an upper flange and a lower flange, the upper and lower flanges extending in a radial fashion from opposing sides of the hub, respectively, the hub having:

a cylindrical core defining a drive side and a top side;

an annular arm co-axially disposed exterior to and separated from the cylindrical core, the annular arm defining a tape winding surface bisected by a center line into a top half terminating at a top end surface opposite the drive side and a bottom half adjacent the drive side; and

a web extending from the top side of the core and connecting to the top half of the annular arm, wherein the web is characterized as being not contiguous with the top end surface of the annular arm;

contacting the tape winding surface with a storage tape; and

rotating the tape reel assembly such that the storage tape wraps about the hub and applies a stress of at least 400 pounds per square inch to the tape winding surface;

wherein the tape winding surface and the upper and lower flanges ~~exhibits~~exhibit approximately symmetrical radial deformation in response to the applied stress.

19. (Previously Presented) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the web defines a web top and a web bottom, and further wherein the web top is aligned with the top side of the core.

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20. (Previously Presented) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein an entirety of the web is spaced apart from the opposing end surfaces of the annular arm.